



The Black Circassian?

XXXI.

THE BLACK CIRCASSIAN CHERRY.

This excellent fruit was introduced into this country in the year 1794, by Mr. HUGH RONALDS, of *Brentford*, who imported it from *Circassia*. It has subsequently been extensively dispersed from his Nursery, and merits a place among the most valuable acquisitions to our Fruit Gardens. The trees possess great vigour of growth, and fertility of produce; their branches are thick, young shoots very strong. Leaves large, fleshy, deeply serrated, and strongly nerved. The fruit, which is usually produced in clusters like those of the *May-Duke*, is very large, heart-shaped, flat on the end next the stalk, of an intense red, or rather purplish colour, becoming black when perfectly ripe. The flesh is of a fine consistence, being rather more firm than that of the *May-Duke*, and less so than that of the *Biggareux*; abundantly charged with juice, which is sweet, and slightly aromatic. Stone small, oval. Footstalk short and thick.

This Cherry, in the same aspect with the *May-Duke*, usually ripens in July, about a fortnight later than that variety; it is much esteemed for forcing, and may be considered the best *black* Cherry at present cultivated.

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